

INDIANA STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARC

Ham Radio News from Johnson County, Indiana

JULY 1993

UPGRADES FROM JUNE TESTING

Eric Baade	N9QCT	Indianapolis	Tech
David Baker	N9PVE	Greenfield	Tech
Rob Baltus		Greensburg	NC Tech
Jimmy Bowling		Osgood	NC Tech
Leonard Burton		Seymour	NC Tech
Michael Caster		Greensburg	NC Tech
John Charlton		Seymour	Tech
Alan Curson	WD9GMK	Indianapolis	Advanced
Carole Farmer		Indianapolis	NC Tech
John Fleming	WA9ALS	Shelbyville	Extra
Richard Imel	KA9PTK	Greensburg	Tech
Jewell Judkins		Indianapolis	Tech
Douglas Morrell		Rushville	NC Tech
Thomas Nave	WD4BPY	Monrovia	Advanced
Vernie Parton *	N9PUA	Whiteland	General
Gilbert Riley	N9JXL	Greenwood	General
Gary Smith		Indianapolis	NC Tech
Larry Yager	KB9EKB	Indianapolis	General

* indicates member of MARC

VE UPDATE

There have been several new developments in the VE program that should be of interest to local hams:

1. On July 1st all Novice and Tech tests will be using the new question pools.
2. Starting in July Novice tests can only be given by a VE Team.

3. The ARRL has decided to not charge a fee for elements 1A and 2. This means that No-Code Techs who upgrade by taking element 1 A will not be charged for their upgrade! Also applicants going for Novice will not be charged a fee.

4. There will continue to be a fee for hams who are attempting a No-Code Tech license.

5. 610 forms for element 2 or 1A credit will no longer be issued, but will be accepted for credit for 610 forms dated after July 1 of 1992. Under the new format a regular Certificate will be issued for elements 1A and 2.

6. Applicants will no longer be required to fill in item 8 (Current Station Location) on the 610 forms. This can now be left blank.

INSTRUCTOR NEEDED

Due to a new interpretation of FCC rules I will not be able to continue as an instructor for the Novice Class. The FCC says that no one serving as an instructor for ham training can serve as a VE examiner. (The FCC considers this a conflict of interests.) Considering this, I would like to have someone volunteer to take over the code portion of the Novice Class. The class is an important part of our club program and I certainly don't want to see it discontinued. If anyone is interested I will be glad to furnish them with all materials needed for the job.

-NV9K

Columbus Ham Fest

The Columbus Ham Fest will be held at the Aladdin Shrine Temple in Columbus on August 7th. Here is an opportunity to shop and renew old friendships. See you there!

Field Day 1993

"WHO'S GOT THE BARREL CONNECTOR? DOES ANYONE HAVE A BARREL? " That was the late morning cry heard throughout the field day compound at Camp Atterbury. After assembling the crane, putting the antennas together and setting the radios in place it came time for the all important coax cable.

The challenge was to put together enough coax for the three 150 foot runs from the top of the crane to the radios. Unfortunately, there weren't any long continuous pieces to be found. We needed a bag full of barrel connectors to make this field day project work. A quick trip to a Greenwood Radio Shack by Dave, N9PPV, saved the day.

Over a dozen Mid-state Amateur Radio Club hams arrived early Saturday morning to begin setting up. J.R. Osborne, KB9HSE, served as field day coordinator. Pat Pyle, W9PSD, headed up the food and drinks. Topping the menu was Pat's famous Texas-floor-mat chilli. Dave Wendt, KA9OOH, provided the official FD ham. The type you eat. Dozens of other covered dishes, by hungry hams, the radio types, rounded out the field day smorgasbord.

We had two generators on hand this year. The emergency management 5-KW generator was chained to a tree and fired up. It provided enough power to run all of the radios and lights during the 24-hour marathon. Bob Cammack, N9IMP, dusted off his portable home generator and brought it down to field day. It provided a valuable backup system.

Of course, all of the generators in the world don't make a good field day. It takes a coordinated effort by many radio operators to get all of the antennas, cables and radios hooked up. Randy Shake, KC9LC, provided the tri-band beam. J.R. had to dig them out of an old barn.

Shortly after 8 AM the big yellow crane driven by Ed Williams arrived on the scene to become our 50 ton rotor! Each year Ed donates the services of his crane for our field day exercise. It would not be our typical field day without it! Joe Vergara, KA9ZPA, provided the 6-meter beam and expertise for getting Ed's 50-ton crane set up.

Bill Brinkman, KA9ZMU, could be seen walking the length of the crane to run coax cables and the multi-strand rotor control cable. Meanwhile, Lendel Cook, W9LNX, was busy climbing a nearby radio tower to attach a standoff and a multi-band wire antenna. Eric Sluder, KB9BGS and Bob Doles, WA9AYB, helped stretch the antenna across the compound area. One end was tied off to a tree and the other end was attached to a portable concession trailer. Two hours later the trailer was moved to a local festival so our enterprising antenna crew had to find a new antenna anchor.

Inside the field day operations center radios, coax, and grounding straps were being setup. Field day station, NT9J, operating 3-A was about to hit the air. Jeff Sloman, N1EWO, set up an Amtor station complete with lap top computer, digital signal processing TNC and TS-450 radio. Next to him was Bob, WB9AYB, with an equally impressive packet station. Al Soltis, WA9ZET, wasted no time getting his rig up and on the air.

Moments after the 1 p.m. start time all stations were up and running. Several novices and no-code techs experienced the thrill of working DX on the HF bands for the first time. We now have several more experienced operators trained for next year.

This years field day was termed a major success with the participation of over two dozens hams during the 24-hour exercise. The official results will be published in the October issue of QST magazine. Our thanks to everyone who made Field Day '93 a major success.

-NT9J.

INDIANAPOLIS HAM FEST

The promotional table was a great success at the Indy Ham Fest. The blue covered table sported a monitor and VCR playing tapes of recent Field Day videos including the one from this year. Club members volunteered to work an hour or two at the first table we have had at the Indy Fest. Bob N9IMP wants to thank the many club members who helped.

Besides being a promotional table the event also offered a place to sit and rest and socialize with many hams that hadn't been seen for a long time. The tables have been reserved for next year in building two. Start thinking about something you can put on the table for sale!



IS YOUR HAM GEAR INSURED?

-Dave Wendt KA9OOH

Ahhh, there it is-- that brand-new rig that you paid an arm and a leg for! It's just beautiful, and you know it will be worth every penny you had to pay for it! But wait-- what if something happens to it? Suppose you have a fire, or the basement floods? And there's Joe in the club; he had a rig stolen from his car, and he didn't get a dime from his insurance company! Are you covered? And if you are, how much can you expect to collect if something does happen? This article should help you know for sure.

Let's start in your shack. The "standard" dwelling insurance policy and the "standard" homeowners policy both cover all personal property in your home.

There are some exclusions or exceptions to this, but none of them would normally apply to amateur radio gear, so we don't need to worry about them. What we do need to concern ourselves about are the perils, or the risks of loss, that are covered, and the amount of insurance you need to carry.

To cover these in order-- the most common homeowners policy is probably the Form 3, known by many names such as Elite, Gold Star, etc., by the companies that write homeowners insurance. This policy covers the structure itself for "all risks of direct physical loss or damage" and then lists the perils that aren't covered, such as deliberate damage, rust, depreciation, etc.

The contents, including your ham gear, are covered for specified (named) perils, such as fire, lightning, smoke, windstorm, theft, some water damage, and a number of others. Normally, this type of policy will cover just about anything that is likely to happen to your equipment, but you need to be aware that no standard home insurance policy covers damage from flood or earthquake unless you take out specific coverage at an extra charge. (If you live in a flood- or earthquake-prone area, you may have to get this

through a "pool" arrangement.) Some companies offer a "high end" policy, again called by various names such as Ultra, that also covers your personal property against "all risks" with the normal exclusions. Because this policy is so broad, the companies often insist on a higher deductible and are very choosy about writing it, and the premium is understandably higher. "All risk" coverage does insure against such things as dropping your rig or accidental damage by children, but still doesn't cover flood or earthquake.

What about vacation trips or Field Day? You're still safe, up to a point. Standard policies cover your gear (and other personal property) anywhere in the world for the same risks as at home, but the amount is normally only 10 per cent of the limit covered at home; that is, if you have \$50,000 contents coverage, you have \$5000 away from home. Again, policies vary among companies, so you may have more coverage than the standard 10 per cent. Read your policy or call your agent or company to make sure.

If you put a rig in your car, it may not be covered under your home policy or the car policy, especially if it's powered from the car's electrical system. Check your policy or call your agent if you're not sure!

Now, how much actual insurance do you need? The standard homeowners policy provides contents coverage for 50 per cent of the amount on the house itself; that is, if you have \$100,000 on the house, you have \$50,000 on the contents. You can increase this amount if necessary, and you may have to! Most companies or agents will give you a home inventory form, which you can take from room to room, listing everything there with its current value. If you can't get such a form, use a yellow legal pad or your computer, and put down everything you see, pots and pans, books, clothes, furniture, with an estimated value (more on this later).

You may be surprised when you get done, because you probably have a lot more than you thought you did, and more than you're actually insured for. If so, run, don't walk, to the telephone and get that amount increased. Your policy normally requires you to carry

insurance equal to at least 80 per cent of the total value; if you're short on the policy, any loss adjustment will be shorted in the same proportion, so it's vital for you to keep your amount of insurance current on both the structure and its contents.

Many companies are now making it easier to gauge the proper amount of insurance on the house, but this doesn't guarantee the proper amount on the contents. It's up to you to get this amount right.

When you're done with this inventory, make several copies, and keep one in your safe deposit box, or somewhere away from home. It may come in handy in case of a loss! You have to prove what you had if you make a claim, and just trying to remember may not be enough!

I mentioned values a moment ago. What is the proper value for anything you have? Well, the standard policy covers you for what is known as Actual Cash Value, defined as replacement cost less depreciation. In a word, with ACV, you'll likely wind up getting a lot less than you expected! You can get around this by buying Replacement Cost coverage, which eliminates depreciation on the settlement and gives you the full amount needed to replace the item damaged with a brand new item of like kind and quality. Note, though, that you actually have to replace the item to get this kind of settlement; you can't expect to get brand new cost for old property and take a trip to Florida on the difference!

Replacement Cost coverage does cost more, because you naturally have to increase the amount of coverage, but it's surely worth it in peace of mind, isn't it? Most companies will write RC willingly, but if you have a lot of old property, you might not be eligible; check with your agent or company to see whether you already have the coverage, and if not, whether you are eligible for it.

Next month we'll discuss towers, antennas, and mobile rigs. In the meantime why not start checking on your present insurance?

- KA9OOH

BEN'S WEATHER TIPS

By Ben Woods Channel 8 TV

Flooding along the Mississippi River has been dominating the news headlines lately. Thought it might be an appropriate time to review some flash flood safety tips.

Actually, the situation along the Mississippi River is not truly flash flooding except in the case when a levy breaks. When a river floods, usually a crest is predictable and may occur days after the heavy rains have fallen. There is rarely loss of life, but lots of property damage occurs when a major river floods.

Flash flooding is much more sudden. A single slow-moving heavy thunderstorm can turn a lazy creek into a killer. People often underestimate the power of rushing waters. In fact, more people are killed in the U.S. from flash flooding than from lightning, tornadoes, or hurricanes.

Avoid driving on roads covered by flash flooding, especially when you cannot tell the depth of water. If caught in your car in a flash flood, abandon your vehicle and run, swim, or doggy-paddle to higher ground. When reporting flash flooding, estimate depth of water on roadway and give details of any damage that has occurred. Of course, rainfall reports are helpful too.

The heat is on in central Indiana. July has begun with hot temperatures and high humidities, but then again that's what summer's all about in Indiana. The month of June was wetter and slightly cooler than normal in Indianapolis. We averaged 71.0 degrees (0.9 degrees cooler than normal). We didn't break the 90 degree mark in June but we did hit 89 on the 18th and 24th. Over 5 inches (5.15" to be exact) of rain fell last month. June averages 3.49" in the state's capital.

The outlook for the month of July in Indianapolis calls for warmer than normal temperatures and near normal temperatures. Sincerely, Ben Woods



EQUESTRIAN EVENT

Get ready to saddle up for another horse event at the Johnson County Horse Park at Camp Atterbury! The Benefit Horse Trials will be holding another equestrian event Saturday August 21st at the horse park. The Mid-state Amateur Radio Club again has been asked to provide emergency communications around the cross-country course.

Since this event conflicts with our regular meeting day we have moved the club meeting to the following saturday August 28th. The VE Testing will have to remain on the 21st since that date can't be changed. **DON'T FORGET! IN AUGUST THE MEETING IS ON THE 4TH SATURDAY!**

Needed are about two dozen technician class or above operators with a 2-meter radio and lots of battery power to work the day-long event. As usual, each operator and a helper will be provided with a free lunch. I would recommend bringing a few survival items with you. Bring lots of sun tan lotion, mosquito repellent, a rain coat, lawn chair, a cooler, and extra batteries. Each ham will be allowed to park their vehicle near the respective jump site.

Your spouse and family are welcome to come along to observe this event. Activities director Jack Parker, NT9J, will be coordinating the radio net. If you can help, contact Jack on the club repeater or by phone at 881-0817.

--NT9J.

JACK'S TALK AT COLUMBUS

On Thursday, July 8th Jack NT9J, and Bob WB9AYB traveled south to attend the meeting of the Columbus Radio Club. Jack had been invited to give a presentation on his trip across the Atlantic on the good ship Tievoli. He carried with him some of the video footage that many of our club members have seen at earlier meetings.

According to WB9AYB, Jack told how Ralph got his general license through the local VE Test team to be able to operate on the low bands at sea. It seems that Jack's presentation was well received. Maybe this means that our Activities Director has now become a public speaker! Good job, Jack!

PACKET INFORMATION

Letter from retiring Indiana Packet Coordinator:

Your new Indiana Packet Coordinator is John, WM9U @ N5AAA. I will be working with John over the next few days to bring him up to date. Then, we will issue the latest packet freq coordination listing. If you find errors or omissions, send them to WM9U and I will work with him for verification.

John, WM9U, has been recognized by both the Indiana Repeater Council and the Indiana Digital Experimenters Assoc. as the Indiana Packet Coordinator. Please join me in welcoming him to the main stream of Indiana packet!

I would like to thank IDEA and the IRC for helping me make packet coordination a manageable job over the past few years. 73 de John, WJ9U

NEW OFFICERS OF I.D.E.A.

The following Indiana Digital Experimenters Association members were elected to the positions listed below for the July 93 / July 94 term:

PRESIDENT KK9G Dan Dews Indianapolis

V.-PRESIDENT N5CEC Mike Wolford Indianapolis

SEC/TREAS KG6XT John Deegan Carmel

NTWRK CHRMN N4XI John Bennett Evansville

NTWRK REP 219 AREA:

NU9H David Daley Laporte

NTWRK REP 317 AREA:

N5AAA John Hartman Noblesville

NTWRK REP 812 AREA:

N4XI John Bennett Evansville

DIRECTOR 219 AREA:

NQ9Q Brian Straup South Bend

DIRECTOR 317 AREA:

WJ9U John Gooldy Noblesville

DIRECTOR AREA 812:

WW9A Brian Smith Columbus

CONGRATULATIONS, BRIAN!

This a copy of the flyer given out at the Indy Ham Fest. Why not give it to a prospective club member?

The Mid-State Club

Size: About 80 members.
Location: Franklin, Indiana
Meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month at 8:00 A.M. at the Law Enforcement building just south of the Johnson County Hospital.
Breakfast each meeting day 7:00 A.M. at the House of Franklin on U.S. 31

MARC

***The Mid-State
Amateur Radio
Club***

**P. O. Box 836
Franklin, In. 46131**

The Club Repeater

Frequency: 146.835 (-)
Open to all Amateurs
Auto-patch for members.
(From the 878 exchange)
Location: In Trafalgar at 450 feet covering five counties.
Club net every sunday at 7:00 P.M.

**Annual
Club sponsored
Novice Class
Each February**

**ARRL VE Testing
The 3rd saturday
of each month
March - November**

**Monthly Newsletter
SPARK-GAP
for all members**

**ARES Weather net
And
RACES Emergency
Net**

**Sunday Night Net
at 7:00 P.M. with
Newslime and Swap
or trade.**

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Call: _____ License: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Occupation: _____

Dues are \$ 18.00 per year. New members dues are \$ 1.50 per month for the remainder of the year. Send dues and application to Mid-State ARC - PO Box 836 - Franklin, In. 46131



HAVE YOU HEARD THIS?

These are sentences taken from actual letters received by a large city's Welfare Department in applications for support:

**** I am forwarding my marriage certificate and six children. I have 7 but one died which was baptized on a half sheet of paper.

**** I am writing the Welfare Department to say that my baby was born two years old. When do I get my money?

**** Mrs. Jones has not had any clothes for a year and has been visited regularly by the clergy.

**** I cannot get sick pay. I have six children. Can you tell me why?

**** I am glad to report that my husband who is missing is dead.

**** This is my eighth child. What are you going to do about it?

**** Please find for certain if my husband is dead. The man I am now living with can't eat or do anything till he knows.

**** I am very much annoyed to find you have branded my son illiterate. This is a dirty lie as I was married a week before he was born.

**** In answer to your letter. I have given birth to a boy weighing 10 pounds. I hope this is satisfactory.

**** I am forwarding my marriage certificate and three children, one of which is a mistake as you can see.

**** Unless I get my husband's money pretty soon, I will be forced to live an immortal life.

**** You have changed my little boy to a girl. Will this make a difference?

**** I have no children yet as my husband is a truck driver and works days and night.

**** In accordance with your instructions I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.

**** I want my money as quick as I can get it. I've been in bed with the doctor for two weeks and he doesn't do me any good. If things don't improve, I will have to send for another doctor.

* * * * *

When the police raided Jeffery Dahmers house they found him sitting by the freezer singing "My boloney has a first name....."

**** Three men arrived at the Pearly Gates and were met by St. Peter who asked them how they had ended up here. "Well", said the first man, "I came home late one night to find that my wife had just had a lover. I got so annoyed that I stormed into the kitchen and hurled the fridge out of the window! This caused a heart attack and I died! Then he asked the second man who replied, "I was walking down the street when this big fridge came out of the sky and killed me." Then the third man said, "I was hiding in this fridge....."

**** What's the difference between a Grizzly Bear and a Black Bear? Just climb a tree. If it climbs the tree after you it's a Black Bear. If it knocks the tree down it's a Grizzly Bear!

**** A body on vacation tends to remain on vacation unless acted upon by an outside force.

**** Time flies like an arrow!...Fruit flies like a banana!

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NEW HANDOUT HELPS EXPLAIN RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE

Hot off the press is a free ARRL pamphlet explaining radio frequency interference (RFI) to the layman. Although intended to be handed to one's neighbor when an interference complaint arises, most amateurs will find the pamphlet a handy, concise summary of RFI issues well worth reading.

Here's the first paragraph the neighbor will read:

"As our lives become filled with more technology, the likelihood of unwanted electronic interference increases. Every lamp dimmer, hair dryer, garage-door opener, radio transmitter, microprocessor-controlled appliance or remote-controlled new technical 'toy' contributes to the electrical noise around us. Many of these devices also 'listen' to that growing noise and may react unpredictably to their electronic neighbors."

The pamphlet stresses cooperation. After pointing out various sources of electronic pollution, it says:

"With all of these possibilities, it is difficult to guess which type of problem is causing your interference. Usually, only a technical investigation can pinpoint the cause and suggest a solution. This is where a spirit of cooperation and trust will pay off! If you believe your equipment is picking up signals from a nearby radio transmitter, the operator may be able to help you both find a solution to a mutual problem."

The section entitled "Personalities" is worded in such a way ("you and your neighbor") that the points of view of the "interferer" or the "interferee" become interchangeable.

But make no mistake--the pamphlet emphasizes that many, if not most, cases of interference to consumer electronic devices are the result of deficiencies in that equipment--without belaboring the point.

Finally, the brochure lists addresses for the ARRL, the Electronic Industries Association, the FCC (in Washington), and suggested sources for high-pass, common-mode and telephone interference filters.

The pamphlet is available in small quantities for an SASE from ARRL Headquarters; contact the ARRL RFI Desk for special arrangements if you wish to obtain large quantities.

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CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

July 17 Club Meeting and VE Testing

Aug 21 Equestrian Event and VE Testing

Aug 28 Club meeting! Please note that this is one week later than usual to avoid the conflict with the Equestrian Event scheduled for August 21st! The Ve Testing will still be on the third saturday since that date can not be changed.

We are still in the "bad weather" season! Keep checking the weather and check-in to the weathernet if one is needed!

73

MARC

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Post Office Box 836 Franklin, In. 46131

Club Repeater: 146.835

President: Robert Cammack N9IMP

RACES: Bill Brinkmann KA9ZMU

V. President: Randy Shake KC9LC

ARES: David Wendt KA9OOH

Secretary: Bill Brinkmann KA9ZMU

Activities: Jack Parker NT9J

Treasurer: Mac McCarty NV9K

Rpt. Trustee: Dave Julian WB9YIG

Editor: Mac McCarty NV9K

Weather: Ben Woods Channel 8